

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

7 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the United  
8 States shall be taught in all public schools and in all other  
9 educational institutions in this State supported or  
10 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching  
11 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to  
12 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of  
13 government and the principles for which our government stands  
14 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place  
15 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders  
16 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and  
17 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching  
18 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions  
19 of African Americans and other ethnic groups including but not  
20 restricted to Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian, Irish,  
21 Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak, French,  
22 Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the history of this  
23 country and this State. The teaching of history shall include a

1 study of the events related to the forceful removal and illegal  
2 deportation of almost 2,000,000 Mexican-American U.S. citizens  
3 during the Great Depression, beginning in 1929 and ending in  
4 the mid-1940's. The teaching of history also shall include a  
5 study of the role of labor unions and their interaction with  
6 government in achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise  
7 system. No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of  
8 any public school unless he has received such instruction in  
9 the history of the United States and gives evidence of having a  
10 comprehensive knowledge thereof. The State Superintendent of  
11 Education may prepare and make available to all school boards  
12 instructional materials that may be used to supplement  
13 instruction in any of the subject areas listed in this Section.  
14 (Source: P.A. 92-27, eff. 7-1-01; 93-406, eff. 1-1-04.)